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NOTICES FROM THE LICK OBSERVATORY.*

PREPARED BY MEMBERS OF THE STAFF.

THE OBSERVATORY OF THE D. O. MILLS EXPEDITION TO CHILE.

The buildings and premises occupied by the D. O. Mills Expedition to Chile are shown in the accompanying illustrations. The station, on the summit of San Cristobal, is about two miles northeast of the center of the city of Santiago, at an elevation of 2,800 feet above sea-level, the altitude of the city being 1,800 feet. The city of Santiago is shown indistinctly in the background of one of the illustrations.

The installation of the apparatus was completed last October, and photographic results accumulated rapidly during the southern summer now coming to a close. The first installment of spectrum plates has just been received at Mount Hamilton, where they will be promptly measured and reduced. A few spectroscopic binaries have been already discovered as by-products of the programme of observations.

W. W. CAMPBELL.

NOTE ON β 346 = *LIBRÆ* 23.

In his General Catalogue BURNHAM gives the measures of this double star from discovery in 1877 to 1888 with the note, "No material change." I have, however, secured two measures recently which seem to indicate that this pair is a binary in slow direct motion. The measures from 1877 to 1888 are rather discordant, varying between 233° and 239°, with a distance of about 1″.25. My recent measures give an angle of 253°.6, with distance 1″.35 (1904.36).

May 27, 1904. R. G. AITKEN.

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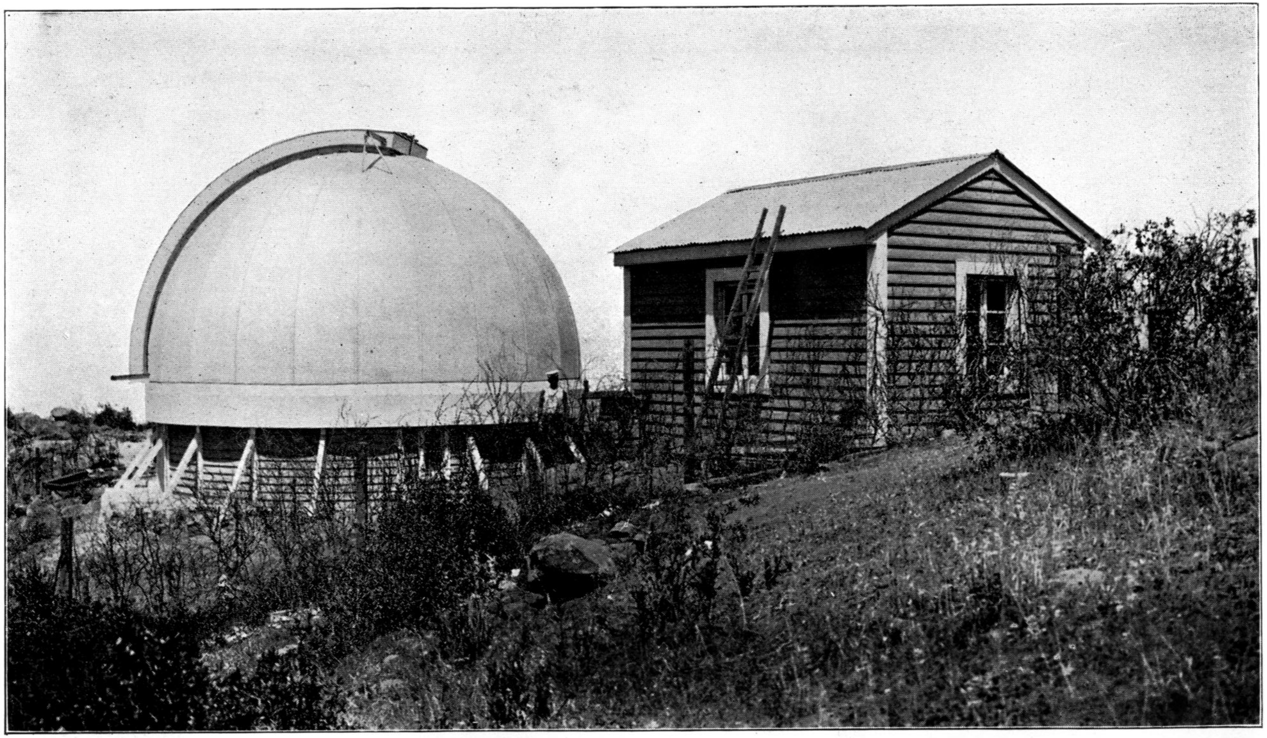
* Lick Astronomical Department of the University of California.



THE OBSERVATORY OF THE D. O. MILLS EXPEDITION.

ELEMENTS OF COMET *a* 1904 (BROOKS).

From observations on April 17th (AITKEN), May 8th (MADDRILL), and May 24th (MADDRILL), we have computed the following set of parabolic elements for this comet:—

$$T = 1904,\ \text{March } 6.9049,\ \text{G. M. T.}$$

$$\left.\begin{array}{rl} \omega = & 53^\circ\ 27'\ 13''.8 \\ \Omega = & 275\ \ \ 46\ \ \ 05.5 \\ i = & 125\ \ \ 07\ \ \ 33.1 \end{array}\right\}\ \text{Mean equinox of } 1904.0.$$

$$\log q = 0.432475.$$

Residuals (O − C); $\Delta\lambda' \cos\beta' - 1''.0$; $\Delta\beta' + 1''.7$

An ephemeris based on these elements is given in *Lick Observatory Bulletin,* No. 56.

R. G. AITKEN.
J. D. MADDRILL.

May 27, 1904.

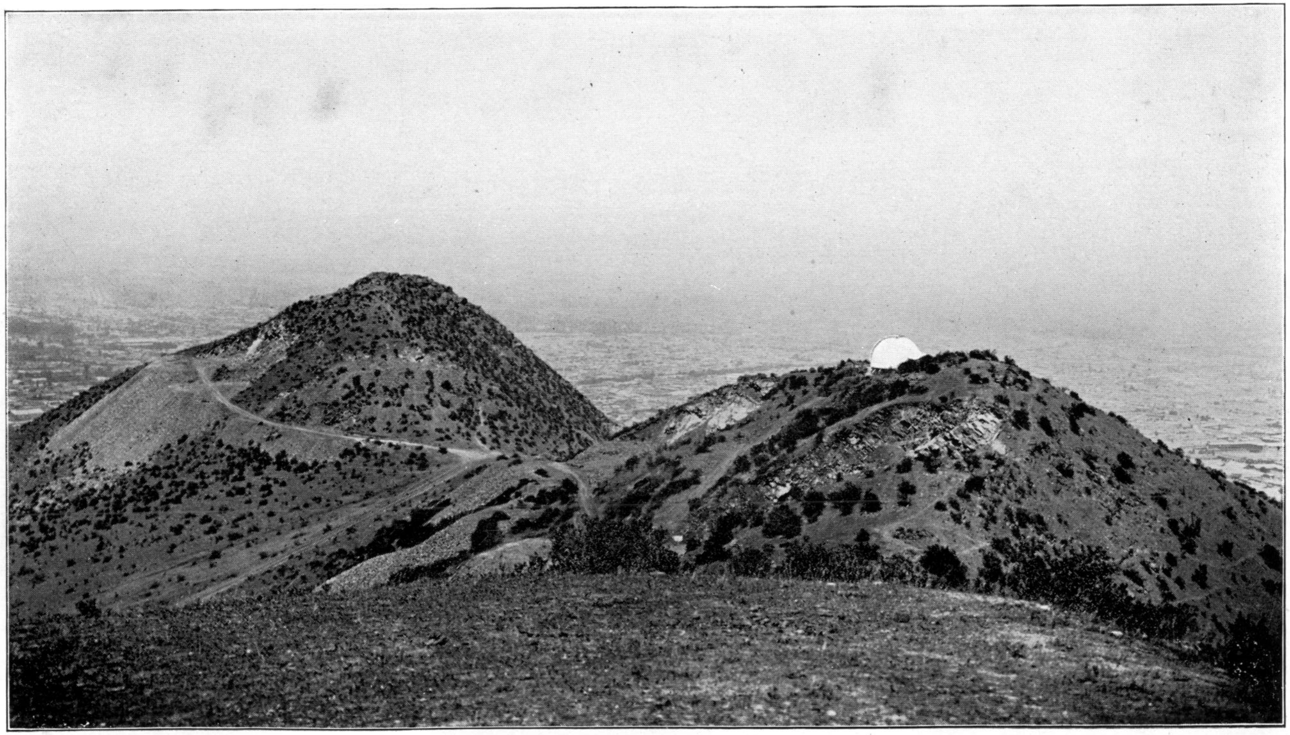
COMET *a* 1904 (BROOKS).

This comet was discovered by Dr. W. R. BROOKS on the night of April 16, 1904. The telegram announcing the discovery was received here on Sunday, April 17th, and the comet was observed with the 12-inch telescope the same evening. It was found to be a small object, fairly bright, about ninth magnitude, with a sharp nucleus of about the tenth magnitude, and a short brushy tail extending toward the south.

The preliminary orbits that have been computed for this comet show that it has a greater perihelion distance than any one of recent years except GIACOBINI'S comet (*d* 1902), the distance from the Earth at the time of discovery being nearly 2.3 astronomical units. The ephemeris computed from the elements, given on another page, indicates that the comet will remain visible in large telescopes as an evening object throughout the summer and autumn months, the brightness diminishing but slowly.

R. G. AITKEN.

May 27, 1904.



THE OBSERVATORY ON SAN CRISTOBAL.

(SANTIAGO IN THE BACKGROUND.)